



**Governor's Advisory Council
To The Division of Developmental Disabilities**

January 18, 2018

1056 Governor's Avenue
Dover, DE

Council Members:

Terri Hancharick, Chair
Thomas Rust
Tim Brooks
Angie Sipple
Susan Pereira

Staff Members:

Rick Kosmalski
Terry Macy
Stacy Watkins
Katie Howe, by phone
Jim Dickinson
Nicole Lawless, Minutes

Guests Present:

Carlos Hernandez, Columbus
Stan Trier
Vivian Turner, CERTS, Inc.
Tamika Hudson, CERTS, Inc.
Vicki Haschak, Elwyn

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Council members agreed to review minutes from the November 16, 2017 meeting and postpone approval until the next meeting.

Old & New Business

Director Update

A new Director was chosen for the division with a pending start date of January 29, 2018. The division gave GAC members a copy of the press release announcing the selection by Secretary Walker.

Governor's Budget

The Governor's recommended budget will be released on January 25, 2018. The division will provide the GAC with more information at the February meeting, prior to the JFC hearings.

JFC

DDDS is scheduled as the second presenter with the largest time slot. Secretary Walker will provide an overview of DDDS and high-level accomplishments during the hearing.

During the meeting, members discussed the loss of \$9 million from the DDDS budget at the last JFC hearing. DDDS expects to get some of those funds back in the FY19 budget. The GAC expressed the importance of communicating to the JFC the increase in the IDD population from year to year and asked DDDS to provide an update once more information is available.

Rate Study & Epilogue

DDDS currently has three pieces of epilogue to respond to relating to the following topics:

Least Restrictive Environment Study

- This is an ongoing study for DDDS assessing individual placements. Information required for the epilogue has been submitted.

Transition Plan Compliance Strategies

- All DDDS Providers are compliant and moving forward with the transition. A minimal cost has been identified with this process.

Rate Study Completion

- DDDS is looking for a solution to rates that are not fully funded. The division is looking to benchmark against other states and align accordingly instead of conducting another rate study, due to the two-year time frame and high cost. In addition, DDDS would not be able to meet the recommended rate until 2020.

GAC members asked Rick to send the epilogue language to the group.

Columbus

Carlos Hernandez provided the GAC with an overview of the organization and their case management services. Columbus is currently serving over 10,000 people in case management nationwide. Community Navigators maintain a maximum 60-person caseload to allow for frequent contact with families.

Members discussed the role of Community Navigators within the DDDS systems to provide supports to individuals. Designated DDDS and Columbus staff maintain regular communication to ensure the appropriate services are provided for individuals. DDDS and Community Navigators also work together closely to detect and address potential problems, pitfalls, and trends of duplicate issues. Navigators meet with individuals and families on an ongoing basis and assist with updating plans for individuals based on their needs.

Lifespan Waiver

DDDS has requested to make changes to the waiver. DDDS would like to have a concurrent operation with individuals carved out of the 1115 with the Diamond State Health Plan, so that these individuals can continue to receive their healthcare through their MCO without disruption. CMS agreed to allow a technical change and the division is currently waiting to hear back from them.

Enrollment for individuals living and staying at home is currently behind the anticipated time line. DDDS staff is working diligently to increase the number anticipated for each navigator to catch up on enrollment through a streamline phased in enrollment.

DDDS has submitted paperwork for the agency of choice award. Six providers are currently interested in providing community participation services.

Polypharmacy Study

DDDS is collaborating with eight Residents from Dr. Gallucci's office in a polypharmacy study to determine how many members of the Delaware IDD community are receiving more than one psychotropic medication. Data for an estimated 1000 individuals is currently being collected from Delaware Providers and undergoing screening for accuracy. Through this study, the team will map out the medications individuals are receiving, and the use of polypharmacy, particularly for psychotropics. Delaware is among the few states who have conducted this type of study. DDDS hopes this study will allow further discussion about why these drugs are prescribed, the impacts of these drugs, and if there any positive outcomes as a result.

GAC members expressed an interest in the impact of side effects from these drugs.

Residential Agreement

The residential agreement is still in the development phase. Implementation was delayed due to other higher priority initiatives, but has been added to the priority list for the first six months of this year. The division is now waiting to see if something similar is implemented in any other states. Nebraska is currently the only state to formally have a residential agreement at this time.

Respite

Rick provided an update on respite and the current budget. A quarterly stipend has been placed on respite due to the large increase in the use of the service. DDDS is currently reviewing how money is rewarded and the amounts to ensure families are all treated fairly. GAC members suggested DDDS explain the increase in respite to the JFC at the February hearing.

Future Meetings

FY 2018 Governor's Advisory Council meetings will occur the third Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

March 15, 2018	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
April 19, 2018	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
May 17, 2018	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
June 21, 2018	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.